Modern equipments for Indian Navy

4192. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item 'Navy shying away from high seas';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy has become incapable of undertaking 'open ocean work' for lack of appropriate fleet, equipment and infrastructure and has, therefore, asked for its upgradation and augmentation in a major way to prepare it to face the present day challenges; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Navy is fully capable of undertaking 'open ocean work'.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Upgradation/Augmentation of Indian Navy is an ongoing process dictated primarily by the threat perceptions, prevailing external strategic/ security environment, as also the emerging technologies.

Fleet composition of Indian Navy

4193. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dominance of small ships in the naval fleet imposes limitations of reach of Indian Navy;

(b) the ideal number of aircraft carriers required by the Indian Navy *vis-a-vis* present number of aircraft carriers with Indian Navy; and

(c) the reasons for treating Indian Navy as "Cindrella service"?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Because of limited endurance of small ships, they impose limitations on the reach of Indian Navy.

(b) One Aircraft Carrier *viz.* INS Viraat is in service with the Indian Navy against the requirement of two operational Aircraft Carriers.

(c) The Navy is not treated as a "Cindrella service" and its genuine requirements are met.

Procurement of aerotyres by IAF

4194. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force is experiencing difficulty in procuring aerotyres for its planes, especially after closing down of Dunlop Units; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) After closure of Dunlop India factory at Kolkata, indigenous aerotyres are not available and all aircraft tyres are being imported. There is no problem in importing these tyres except for MIG-21 and MIG-25 fleets which are not operated in Russia any more. These tyres are not readily available in Russia. Alternate sources are being found.

Modernisation of defence forces

4195. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that acquisition and assimilation of military capabilities requires time ranging from five to ten years, if so, is our modernisation of defence forces attuned to that time-frame and are Defence budgetary allocations sufficient in view of belligerent neighbours on our borders; and

(b) if so, whether target fixed for modernisation during the last three years were met and what is the perspective planning for the coming decade?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The 15 year Long Term Perspective Plans and the Five Year and Annual Plans of the Defence Services are formulated on the understanding that acquisition and assimilation of military capabilities require a long restation period. Budgetary allocations are made keeping in mind these requirements and availability of resources.

(b) Allocation of budgetary resources (Budget Estimates) for the Defence Forces (Army, Navy and Air Force) for modernization during